


**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 3-30 were pending in this application. Claim 27 has been canceled. No claims have been added. Thus, claims 1, 3-26, and 28-30 are currently pending. Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowance for claims 1 and 3-21. Further, Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 27 and 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. To that end, claim 22 has been amended to incorporate the further limitation of claim 27. Thus, amended claim 22 is claim 27 rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claim 22 and claims 23-26 and 28-30 that depend from and further limit claim 22 are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, it is clear that all of the pending claims 1, 3-26, and 28-30 are in condition for allowance. An early formal notice of allowance of the pending claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
J. Andrew Lowes  
Registration No. 40,706

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HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP  
901 Main Street, Suite 3100  
Dallas, Texas 75202-3789  
Telephone: 972/739-8640  
Facsimile: 214/200-0853  
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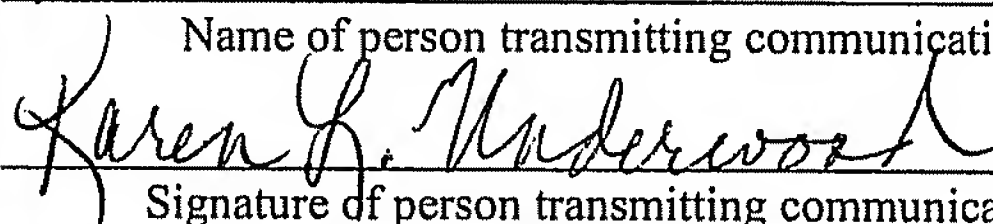
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